



First Steps Program

Department of Social and Health Services
and Department of Health

First Steps Program Updates in Preparation for March 1, 2011

Agenda

- State Introductions & Housekeeping
- Welcome
- Legislative Process
- Review what a 50% program reduction means
- Provider Input on MSS/ICM future & any retooling of the program
- Q&A

Welcome

- DSHS - Todd Slettvet
- Dept. of Health - Kathy Chapman

Legislative Process

- Legislative session started January 10, 2011 and is scheduled to end April 24, 2011
- Legislature makes final decisions on the future of MSS/ICM & CBE
- Proposals include - restore the program w/50% budget reduction, eliminate the program or another option per legislature

Current State Work Plan

State Staff are preparing for :

- 50% budget reduction by March 1, 2011
 - Emergency WAC filed
 - Billing Instructions Revised
 - Informing Providers
 - Transition plan for allocating units
- Program administrative changes
 - 5 DOH FTEs eliminated leaving less than 1 DSHS FTE to manage the program

What We Know Today

1. New MSS/ICM/CBE budget is approx. \$7.5M
2. Some level of service must be made available to all eligible clients
3. Short timeframe for implementing budget reduction limits what can be done before 3/1/11
 - WAC and SPA process takes months
 - No time for provider input
 - Budget is still a moving target



Questions and Answers

Plan to Implement the 50% Budget Reduction for March 1, 2011

- Cut MSS/ICM units to half of current level
- Make no changes to CBE
- Keep current service delivery model

Unit Allocation

Handout will be available on First Steps website prior to March 1, 2011

Example of unit allocation

- If a client is seen February 15, 2011 for a MSS appointment and screened into B level of service is she eligible for 18 units of service?
 - Yes, she had a billable service **prior to** March 1, 2011
- If the same client is rescreened in April, and qualifies for a C level of service, would she then qualify for 40 units of service?
 - Yes, minus what you already billed

Example

- If a client screened into MSS 2/5/11 & then screened into ICM on 5/1/11 what unit allocation would ICM fall under for this client?
 - See unit allocation handout . This clients 1st billable ICM service would occur after March 1, 2011. The units assigned are based on the new 2011 unit allocation.



Questions and Answers

Provider Input

- If the program continues, DSHS will begin a redesign of the program
- DSHS wants to collect provider ideas on other possible ways to provide services
- Stakeholder input will be done differently than in the years past .

Program Communication

- Communications will be posted via DSHS First Steps website once the DOH First Steps mailbox is closed.
- When state staffing cuts are implemented to First Steps, responses to provider inquiries must go to DSHS and longer response times can be anticipated.



Questions and Answers

First Steps State Staff Thank You for Participating

